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Solaris explores breathing

by La Tonya Turner

Most people do not think of breathing as a technique for creativity. But Solaris Dance-Theatre, Inc. is a group of performing artists whose occupation explores and develops a breathing technique as "the beginning of the creative process."

The crew of professional dancers, actors, singers and musicians was in the area last week giving workshops on the campuses of LSUS and Louisiana Tech University, Caddo Correctional Institute and other places, concluding with a performance of the dance "Komachi" last Saturday night at the Shreveport Civic Center.

DURING THE INFORMAL performance in the LSUS mall, the group entertained students with a mixture of conversation, demonstration and audience participation.

Chris Varjan, Solaris member who served as spokesperson for the demonstration, told the LSUS audience that the group emphasizes the importance of breathing in all art forms.

The demonstration showed the technique of the synchronization of breath patterns by performers.

"Each person is a mirror of the other," Varjan said. "Principles of harmony; unity of mind, body and spirit; and, the flow of breath energies guide the work."

SOLARIS INTEGRATES breath, sound and motion in one form, concentrated at the center of the body.

This concentration is important in sound, voice and body, which makes it important to all of the performing arts. This explains why the group consists of a variety of artist types.

The demonstration began with breathing exercises which exemplified the process used by Solaris as a part of each day's work.

One segment of the demonstration was the performance of a breath improvisation by two Solaris members, Chris Varjan and Curtis Sykes.

BREATH IMPROVISATION is a dance exercise in which the participants lead and follow each other through their breathing patterns.

A brief instrumental performance was given by a male member with percussion instruments of various African and Asiatic origin, using the same rhythmic structures that had been observed during the dance exercises.

The performance concluded with a demonstration of the Japanese martial art of Aikido.

Aikido is a different type of martial art which does not train students to "meet force with force, but to lead the mind of their opponent with their movements."

VARJAN SAID that Solaris was founded in 1974 by choreographer-director-performer Henry Smith, who was not present at the LSUS performance.

Solaris is a non-profit organization, incorporated in 1976 and tax-exempt.

"A permanent administrative staff, assisted by a working board of directors, ensures a financially stable base for the company," Varjan said.

The company has toured nationally and internationally. "We have done a lot of teaching and touring, from New York to France," Varjan said.

WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCES are only a few of the objectives of Solaris. Dance-video performances are an important part of its work "to introduce the company to a larger national and international audience."

Arts in education, another of Solaris' objectives, consists of special programs of demonstrations and informal performances, aimed at secondary and high school students.

The group also works as a community service organization by offering programs to audiences who do not have the opportunity to be exposed to dance and theatre.

"These include special re-motivation workshops for the incarcerated, the deaf, alcoholics, the aged, drug abusers, the infirm and culturally deprived," Varjan said.

FROM THIS, it becomes evident that the Solaris members are more than artists; they are scientists — researching, experimenting and synthesizing — who are ingeniously adapting natural forces to human uses.



Proper breath patterns are essential to the style of dance of Solaris, who performed March 28 in the mall. (Photo: Sam Moore)

Students dance for muscular dystrophy

by Susie Booras

Despite the rain and the flooding streets, the Muscular Dystrophy Dance Marathon sponsored by LSUS kept students dancing last Friday night and Saturday.

LSUS, along with other area students, danced the night away at the "Can't Stop Dancing" Dance Marathon held at South Park Mall. The marathon began at 7 p.m. Friday and continued until 7 p.m. Saturday.

SEVEN PEOPLE ACTUALLY danced all night at the event, where \$2,020.65 was raised for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Odyssey Disco from West Monroe provided the music.

KOKA and KROK radio stations each provided disc jockeys for six hours.

The participants received pledges from local businesses for the marathon and some paid the \$100 themselves. Many local businesses also helped by providing food for the dancers during the 10-minute breaks every hour.

The program provided various contests of interest to spectators and dancers during the 24-hour period.

KENDA ROMERO, a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, and Dana Denner were the couple who raised the most money for the event. They both won stereos for their efforts.

A 14-year-old girl who danced the full 24-hour period had strong feelings about the marathon.

"I am tired physically, but I can't express how I really feel. I am glad to know I can help the Muscular Dystrophy Association," she said.

Her 15-year-old partner said he felt "tired but good. I was happy that we made it the full 24 hours. I had a ball and will certainly do it again next year."

A CONTROVERSY EXISTS over which organization raised

the most money for the event, with the prize being a \$300 side of beef. Zeta Tau Alpha and Moa' Afrika' are the organizations being considered as possible winners.

Committee member and prize chairman Jeff Lanus said that Zeta Tau Alpha raised \$588 and should be the winners. Moa' Afrika' included the \$300 side of beef prize which they helped to get donated, in their total amount of money raised, Lanus said.

Kay Ensley, the Muscular Dystrophy Association representative in Shreveport, will retabulate the figures. Including the donated prize in an organization's total has not been done in the past, Lanus said.

CO-CHAIRMAN SED BLEDSOE, a member of Moa' Afrika', said that he and co-chairman Gail Overmeyer agreed at the marathon that Moa' Afrika' should win the organizational prize.

"The money raised helps the MDA; and the prizes draw people to the dance and have the same effect of helping the cause of Muscular Dystrophy," Bledsoe said.

Overmeyer would make no comment about the dance marathon.

SGA President Pat Dowling, a former MDA Marathon chairman, commented on the lack of participation of LSUS students this year as compared to last year's event.

"ALL GREEK ORGANIZATIONS were represented along with others, and around \$6,500 was raised at last year's marathon," Dowling said.

The lack of campus publicity and the fact that there was not one chairman were problems this year, Dowling said.

Dowling said, "I hope next year the problems can be worked out and they can come up with a better marathon. I hope it goes on for years to come."

Forensics squad captures third

by Joey Tabarlet

LSUS' forensics squad took third place in the overall sweepstakes competition at the Louisiana State Forensic Association Championships in Thibodaux last weekend.

The third place finish was in a field of six schools: University of Southwestern Louisiana, who took first; Louisiana Tech, who

won second; Southeastern University, McNeese University, and Nicholls State University, which hosted the tournament.

The individual winners for LSUS were: Mark Goldstein, second in Prose Interpretation; Melissa Powell, second in Poetry Interpretation; Joey Tabarlet, second in Impromptu Speaking; Mike Kanosky, third

speaker in Novice Debate; and Monique Kolonko, fourth speaker in Novice Debate.

The squad equaled last year's performance at State with the third place finish. USL won last year's competition as well, but Northeast Louisiana University came in second.

Northeast passed up this year's state championships to attend the National Individual Events Tournament. Northeast has been stronger in the interpretation events this year than in either debate or other forensic events.

The tournament was further reduced by the absence of both LSU-Baton Rouge and Tulane. Both of those schools have strong debate programs.

Novice Division, open to only first-year college debaters, had six teams in it and Open Division had only seven. With four rounds of competition, it was a difficult task to keep some teams and schools from meeting more than once.

The LSUS team next travels to St. Louis, Mo., for Pi Kappa Delta Nationals. This will be only the second time that LSUS students have attended a national tournament. Dr. Frank Lower, faculty sponsor, will accompany Monique Kolonko, Tommy Ray and Joey Tabarlet.



Dr. Frank Lower led the team to a third place in sweepstakes. (Photo: Sam Moore)

Will draft become a reality again?

Before the Second World War, the notion of a permanent peacetime conscription would have been repugnant to the American mind. Always before, the draft had been instituted as a wartime measure; and, even then it was hardly popular.

During the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War, it was a fact of life for most American males between the ages of 18 and 35.

Ended in 1973, the draft went into mothballs and the volunteer armed forces took its place. The main criticism accompanying this voluntary system of manning our services was that the expense of luring capable young enlistees would be exorbitant.

armed forces and reaffirmed faith in the American political tradition.

What are the alternatives to the draft? Schemes that have been put forth in recent years are: a lottery, universal military training, national service and a volunteer army.

Of these, national service is the most feasible of the avenues not tried so far and one that has prompted much controversy.

The Committee decided that "if a system of National Service can be established, the work that young people do may bring about (a) restoration, first in the lives of their fellow citizens and then in their own lives. We think that the sooner a system of National

Service is established, the better for the nation."

Whether National Service is the answer to our problem is still open to debate, as are the other alternatives.

Young Americans may soon find themselves registering for the draft, getting physicals and being classified by the Selective Service.

Whatever the outcome of the debate on the draft, it will be an issue of national importance and probably a hot issue in the 1980 presidential election campaigns.

by Steve Howell
Special to the Almagest

Editorial

This criticism has proven to be true, and much talk surrounds the subject of whether or not the draft should be reinstated. The Senate Armed Services Committee recently began hearings on this matter.

So the debate is on, hotter than ever, and the whole country may be involved in it soon. Pros and cons will be tossed back and forth; but one thing is sure — American military leaders and many politicians are becoming alarmed by the world situation and feel that the United States should take some kind of action to become prepared.

Those in favor of the draft argue that it serves the foreign policy interests of the nation. Since the United States will continue to have military commitments around the globe, forces must be kept in readiness for either conventional or limited warfare.

Opponents of the draft do not agree. They claim that large-scale conventional war is unlikely and limited war unproductive. In their view, if we have less military might ready, the executive will be less able to intervene in foreign lands and their affairs.

Those who oppose the draft believe that the best defense against militarism is not continued conscription but intensified professionalism of the

Almagest

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psychology & you

Suicide

by Dr. George A. Kemp,
Professor and Chairman
Department of Psychology

One of the valued mementoes in my office is a needlepoint sampler framed and presented to me by a former student who later sought me as a therapist. It had been some years since I had last seen her, but she said that she had made and framed it for me to express appreciation for my efforts to help her. I accepted it as graciously as possible, though I was rushing to a committee meeting and had only a moment to express my gratitude for the gift.

She was a beautiful young woman with everything to live for. She was happily married to her college sweetheart, her husband was devoted to her and their love had produced a beautiful child. In more recent years she had inherited considerable wealth and had become a productive professional person. Her accomplishments had fulfilled the promise she had shown as an undergraduate student, where she was consistently cited on the dean's list, was chosen as a university beauty and her senior year was named homecoming queen.

It must have come as a shock to many who knew her when she went to a hotel, took an overdose of barbiturates and ended it all. To those of us who knew her well, it brought a sense of failure, but not surprise.

For some time before her death, she had episodes of depression which could not be explained by anything in her life situation. I had felt that we made progress when I saw her for therapy, but when I sensed the possibility of a biochemical imbalance, which might be related to the depression, she was referred to a respected psychiatrist. I later learned that she had seen two other psychiatrists and had been hospitalized for a period in one of the most prestigious centers for the treatment of mental health problems in this country. One psychiatrist had also suspected a biochemical imbalance but confessed the inability of modern medicine to detect or cope with it.

In many ways suicide remains a "riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." The problem has not been as serious in this country as it has in others; although it is growing in magnitude among college students. The present rate is 11 persons per 100,000 population, which compares well to the rates of several European countries. Since the rate varies considerably from country to country, cultural influences would appear to be a significant factor.

In this country there are three males for each female suicide. Attempted suicides by females are much more frequent with three females to each male attempt. The difference can probably be accounted for in the more lethal methods chosen by males.

Psychological autopsies of suicides usually reveal a history of depressive tendency. One theory suggests that these persons are often found to have some biochemical imbalance or metabolic dysfunction, which frequently cannot be detected with techniques presently

available. The imbalance may be activated by stress. The depressed person with insufficient ego strength to combat the life situation may develop a distorted view of reality and suicide may appear to be the only solution to his problems.

The suicide may appear to have been precipitated by stress such as the death of a loved one, on whom he depended for emotional support, a divorce, or physical separation from home. These are experiences which would cause any of us to experience some depression, but would not cause us to commit suicide. It appears to be the combination of the depression tendency with a tragic loss and the lack of ego strength, on the part of the individual, to deal realistically with the situation, which predisposes some individuals to suicide.

College students today are especially vulnerable to the circumstances which predispose them to suicide, and there has been an alarming 250-percent increase in the suicide rate among them in the past twenty years. This increase is also noted among all young people but the rate of increase among college students is even greater.

It has been estimated that 80,000 people between the ages of 15 and 24 attempt suicide each year, and that 4,000 succeed, ranking it second as the cause of death in this age group. The problem is not limited to the group which traditionally makes up the undergraduate population, since there is evidence that graduate students and older undergraduate students are more likely to become suicides.

College students have left their families, hometowns, friends and are frequently still searching for identity. They are pressured by the uncertainty of professional choice often coupled with aspirations for a high level of academic success. Some foreign student groups are especially susceptible to suicide because of the demand for success from the entire cultural setting back home.

The student is frequently in the process of reexamining his personal values and religious commitments which previously would have been a resource. Though he usually emerges from the experience with meaningful religious beliefs, he is for the present deprived of this resource. He is also in the midst of the process of building sufficient ego strength to cope with the complex problems of adulthood and lacks the assurance which maturity ultimately brings. Under the trauma of an unfavorable love affair or the death of a parent, the depressed individual's ability to think rationally often is impaired and suicide may result.

It is to be hoped that symbols of tragedy such as my sampler will motivate clinicians and researchers to persist until this tragic riddle is unraveled. In the meantime, we should all be aware that in the midst of our busy schedules, we deal with persons who are functioning under stressful circumstances. Each of us is capable of functioning as a therapeutic personality by offering interest, courtesy, personal warmth, or a touch of positive humor in our relationships with others.

Students must save abroad

by Joey Tabarlet

Travel, especially to exotic foreign countries, has always appealed to college students. Unfortunately, most college students must be extremely careful with their finances, or they will end up stranded without cash. Moreover, with inflation at home and the devaluation of the dollar abroad, "Europe on \$10 a day" is no longer a realistic possibility.

Making the most of your travel dollar is not impossible, however. The Council on International Educational Exchange has published their 1979 Student Travel Catalog, which contains helpful hints and information on bargains to aid the would-be student traveler.

THE FIRST ORDER of business in traveling abroad is to get a passport. To apply for one, you need: a check or money order for \$13, payable to the U.S. Passport Office; proof

of citizenship (a birth certificate); identification (previous passport or driver's license); and two duplicate 2" square photos.

A helpful item to have is an International Student ID Card. This card is required to get discounts on air and rail fares, tours, accommodations and other conveniences in most European countries. The Student Travel Catalog contains an application

Consumer series

for the card; one could be obtained by writing to the Catalog's offices.

CIEE also has group charter rates on many international airlines. Since air fares account for a large part of the money spent on international travel, these low-priced flights could come in handy. To qualify for the student rate, one must: be enrolled in a college, university, or high school for any period of 1979; be under 31 years of age (this applies only on flights to or

from Paris); and carry an International Student ID Card.

THE FARES FOR these trips vary from \$199 to \$365, depending on when one leaves, whether one leaves from New York or Los Angeles, and on what date one leaves.

For getting around in Europe, one can't beat a Eurailpass. This is a ticket that the student buys once, entitling him to unlimited use of trains in 15 European countries for a period from 15 days to three months. A 15-day pass costs \$190. Various other time periods for which a pass may be bought, are available with each pass costing more.

YOUTH HOSTELS and other bargains are described in the 1979 Student Travel Catalog. It is an indispensable companion for the student traveler. One can get more information by writing the CIEE Student Travel Office, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York, 10017.



Bayous exhibited

by Kerry Kirspel

Swirling, blending colors on cloth and paper with the sounds of the bayou lands of Louisiana translated into visual symbols will be on display until May 10 in the Library. The exhibit consists of the works of artists Elizabeth Friedenberg and Clyde Connell.

Friedenberg's work, called *erbu*, is created by dripping oil paints into water, then placing fabric or paper on the surface. When the colors are absorbed, it is then highlighted with black paint or ink images seen in the resulting patterns.

"I do it automatically. I all of a sudden find something and highlight it," she said. Among the images she has seen are landscapes, animals and people, though, she added, the viewer generally sees what he wants.

Occasionally, when adding the paints, Friedenberg stirs the colors. "It all depends on the effect I want."

Clyde Connell, who lives near Lake Bistineau, likes to listen to the sounds of the swampland and then interpret them into visual symbols images. These "swamp songs" are in the form of calligraphic symbols on wall hangings of brown mulberry paper.

No particular sound is represented by a specific symbol, according to Connell. Environment, as well as individual sounds, are incorporated into the work.

"I live in the woods, surrounded by trees and Spanish moss, and I listen to the sounds, especially at night — the sounds of the insects and frogs — and then translate the sound into movement and form."

In addition to the swamp songs, Connell is also exhibiting sculptures which are called "door post guardians." Made of paper, materials found near the lake and Elmer's glue, the sculptures have a woodlike appearance.

"All have an earthy feeling. The tones relate to the swamp songs," Connell said.

The guardians are reminiscent of miniature totem poles. In fact, Connell also builds totems at the woodland home. The totems, also constructed of paper and glue, take a few months to create.

Chemistry study program effective

by Sandy Malone

More than half of the chemistry majors that have graduated from LSUS have gone on to attend the best graduate schools in the country, with practical experience in performing actual scientific research, because they chose to enroll in the chemistry department's highly effective independent study program.

Dr. Ronald A. Martin, associate professor of chemistry, believes the exposure and insight a student gains from working on his own research project gets him into a graduate school, better prepared than most first year graduate students.

"INDEPENDENT STUDY is strictly for the science student to work on various research projects in the laboratory. It is not required for a degree, but is an elective for the student who wants to gain a more in-depth knowledge by pursuing a particular topic," Dr. Martin explained.

A maximum of four credits is allowed in undergraduate research — one credit a semester. Some students, however, continue to work longer than three or four semesters to pursue their project, Dr. Martin said, adding that "a lot depends upon the student's ambition."

"By the nature of research in general, you never know for sure whether the project is something that can be accomplished easily or whether it's going to be very difficult. We've had some students that have worked and accomplished much more than first or even second year graduate students," he said.

ALL OF THE PROJECTS are original and some of the results are in the process of being published in chemistry journals as original contributions.

Faculty members are actual participants in the research projects. "Students aren't doing things we've already done, but we may have already researched some of the groundwork of the project to see whether it's feasible to pursue further," Dr. Martin said. "I think that to provide the students with meaningful research projects, the faculty themselves must participate."

This semester, Dr. Martin and two students in the program are working on a project involving the preparation of potentially good blood clot dissolving compounds. A need exists for improved chemical compounds to dissolve blood clots in the circulatory system, so Dr. Martin and his students are synthesizing some new compounds that might be of value.

DR. FRANK E. COLLINS, professor of chemistry, is working with a student investigating molecules that are used in synthetic perfumes.

Dr. Joseph W. Goerner, chairman of the chemistry department, is studying, along with a research student, certain types of compounds that behave as specialized detergents.

These are just a few of the projects being studied this semester. Most research is carried out in the summer, Dr. Martin said, because students have more free time to devote to their projects. For students who would like to spend as much time as possible in pursuing a worthwhile project, but must

have some type of income, the department tries to help by obtaining outside funding, which has been a problem in the past.

"OFF AND ON over the last five years, we have had a number of these projects funded well enough, so that a few students could be paid nominally to allow them to spend some summer time working on a project," he said. But much more finance is needed. Therefore, the department will continue to pursue additional funding for student-faculty research and equipment so that progress is not restricted.

Dr. Martin recommends that more science students in general become involved with exposure to scientific research.

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BSU members preparing for summer mission work

by Marguerite Plummer
Special to the Almagest

When Colleen Kelly, LSUS sophomore majoring in speech and hearing therapy, leaves for 10 weeks in New Mexico this summer, she will be one of 1,400 Baptist Student Union summer missionaries serving in the states and foreign countries.

Kelly will be assigned to one of several New Mexico Baptist churches which requested students qualified to work with children and youth.

THE OTHER 43 LOUISIANA COLLEGIANS selected from the program will go to Brazil, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Guam, Hawaii, Alaska, the Pacific Northwest and Canada, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and New York.

Rusty Grimsley, a student at Northeast Louisiana University who plans to enter the chaplaincy, will be assigned to the LSU Medical Center chaplain's office.

The 12-member team going to Brazil will participate in a three-week evangelical crusade organized by the Brazilian Baptist Convention. Four more will conduct revival meetings in the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

"THEY GO WHERE THEY are requested," emphasized Rev. Carl Smith, BSU Director at LSUS. The student's skills and experience are matched with the job description furnished by the missionary or church pastor who makes the request.

"The BSU members raise the money for the students to go," Smith added. Half of the \$48,000 needed to send the Louisiana group abroad this year "will come out of their pockets, and the BSU will raise the rest through work projects."

Native pastors and American

missionaries on foreign fields request the BSU summer missionaries for a wide variety of jobs. Some work as agricultural assistants. Others supervise recreation camps and programs. Many conduct vacation Bible schools for children and youth and help with church surveys.

THEY WORK ON CONSTRUCTION projects, or assist in hospitals, bookstores, or radio and television.

Since 1973, when LSUS became a four-year university, Smith estimates that "six or seven" LSUS students have served overseas and "at least twice that number" have participated in summer work in the states.

Will McConico from LSUS worked with high school students in Rhodesia last year. Gerry Stagg of LSUS Medical Center assisted a missionary doctor in a Rhodesian hospital two years ago.

HE LAUGHED ABOUT AN EXAMINATION painstakingly conducted through a nurse interpreter until he finally poked the place that hurt and discovered his patient spoke English quite well!

Charles Walker, a Shreveporter now attending a seminary, was one of 20 BSU collegians who formed a musical group, "The Chosen," and toured the Iron Curtain countries in 1977. "They could not go as a religious group," Smith explained, "but they could go as college musicians."

THE STUDENTS SPEND a weekend in orientation, then travel unescorted to their assigned areas of service. Once on the field, each is assigned to a supervisor — usually the missionary or native pastor who sent in the request.

Serving abroad is just one phase of the BSU's interaction with internationals. Some students work regularly with the New Orleans Seamen's Service, providing recreation and meals for foreign seamen on ships in port.

Others sponsor language courses for wives of foreign students, organize social clubs on campus and arrange dinners for social interchange.

EACH THANKSGIVING the Louisiana BSU arranges a conference in Alexandria for foreign students who have no place to go during the holidays.

"Last year we had 150 students from more than 40 countries," Smith said. "We limit the number of Americans to four from each campus."

A speaker of "high intellectual caliber" is featured at each conference, according to Smith. Religions of the world are discussed, with the aim being to "establish a sense of community and promote understanding." Except for a \$5 per person fee, the BSU pays all expenses.

DANIA ANGEVINÉ, BSU PRESIDENT at LSUS, has spent two summers in California and Baton Rouge conducting surveys and working with youth. She evaluated the missions program from the viewpoint of the student.

"It gives us the opportunity to experience and understand other people's culture. It also helps those of us who may be considering a lifetime commitment to missions a chance to know for sure what we want to do."

"They are well received wherever they go," Smith said. Even with 1400 selected to serve this summer, all the requests will not be filled.



Dr. Thomas Moss' curiosity led him to a career in science. (Photo: Susie Booras)

Science dean's just 'naturally curious'

by Kent Lowe
(Third in a series)

Wanting to know how things work led Dr. Thomas Moss to pursue a career in science. Today, that love of science has led him to his current position as dean and professor of the College of Sciences.

A graduate of Winnfield High School, Dr. Moss completed his undergraduate work at Louisiana Tech and earned his masters from LSU-Baton Rouge.

BEFORE WORKING ON HIS PH. D. in Baton Rouge, Dr. Moss worked for a while at General Dynamics in Fort Worth. He came to LSUS in 1968.

Dr. Moss said he was naturally curious about science as a child, and he feels this element is necessary for any student

Dean's list

interested in science. "It is essential to be curious," Dr. Moss said. "Science can be too much trouble if a person is not curious."

LSUS' Science Department has grown steadily since the opening of the school, and Dr. Moss mentioned the great effort that people put forth to establish a science department when the school opened. "We developed within the limitations of the school," he said.

DR. MOSS, WHO ENJOYS HUNTING and fishing in his spare time with his two sons, feels the day will come when a graduate program will be established in the College of

Sciences. But that day may not occur right away.

"I don't see a graduate program in the foreseeable future," he said. "The graduate programs in science are very expensive. No other program incurs the outlay and the equipment for an academically sound program."

Graduates from the College of Sciences face a wide range of activities outside the college atmosphere, Dr. Moss said, but many are not offered locally. He said many students go on to either graduate school or to medical school. Some, who earn a terminal degree, might go into the teaching profession.

REGARDING THE GROWTH OF LSUS, Dr. Moss sees several factors limiting the growth of LSUS. First is the number of degree programs. Dr. Moss commented that the variety of degree programs is wider at other schools, attracting more students. "We can't offer the wide variety because of the small faculty."

Also listed in the factors limiting growth are the lack of dormitories and masters programs. He feels that with the current formula funding plan, the school cannot get the money to expand.

Science and technology have made major developments over the past several years that have changed the life style of Americans. Who knows, maybe a future graduate of Dr. Moss' College of Sciences will be the next person to make a major scientific breakthrough.

Eating at El Chico's: strange force of habit

by Kim Purdy
Special to the Almagest

Eating out is one of America's favorite pastimes. And it seems as though the flux of eaters-out are avid fans of the Mexican food restaurant.

But why?

It certainly isn't the pinata hanging from the ceiling or even the original (?) Mexican music playing on the stereo.

Most of the time, it's not the service that keeps people going back, and more times than not, I've eaten the food and sworn I'd never return.

But every Sunday evening, I make my weekly visit to El Chico's.

WHY THEN?

Perhaps in some ways it's force of habit, but one regular El Chico's customer said that when she sees "that greasy, spicy food" her "heart leaps up."

It is especially good, she said, on cold or rainy days.

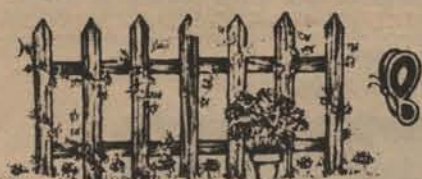
ANOTHER REGULAR CUSTOMER SAID "I really don't know why I like it; it gives me indigestion, but I just can't leave it alone."

Many El Chico patrons admit that free chips and hot sauce before a meal add a great deal of incentive to visit the restaurant.

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Remedial writing is part of 'back-to-basic' movement

by Barbara Wittman
Special to the Almagest

Dr. Stephen Mandell, co-author of "Basic College Writing," spoke to the English Department recently at LSUS.

Dr. Mandell, chairman of the remedial program at Drexel University, was here to speak at the Liberal Arts Colloquium. Also present at the meeting were Doris Pitts and Marie Rinaudo from Caddo Parish schools.

DR. MANDELL EXPLAINED how the remedial program worked at Drexel. The students at Drexel are pragmatic. "If you can't convince them a course will help in the job market, they don't want to hear about it." Basic writing gets least resistance. "We were afraid we might lose students, but instead we gained. Parents liked it; students liked it; and, other colleges liked it," Dr. Mandell said.

"The focus is not to prepare students for freshman English, but to prepare students to survive the first quarter. The program enables students to function in other courses," Dr. Mandell said.

He told English teachers that students come to college from high school never having written a theme. "Nearly 18 percent of freshman students at Drexel are in remedial writing, but it could go as high as 40 percent if we had the funds," he said.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, where Dr. Mandell studied, has 50 percent of the freshman class in remedial writing. Students cannot enter freshman English until they pass this course.

Dr. Mandell said students "pick classes like walking through a mine field — picking and choosing teachers to get through the English core curriculum with as little difficulty as possible." They end up as seniors and still can't write a paper, he said.

Remedial is a misnomer, Dr. Mandell said, because the course brings the students up to college level quickly. In many schools, this course is a basic freshman English class. Many English teachers do not like to teach the basic college writing class because it is more work than upper level classes, he said.

"GOOD BASIC WRITING COURSES are expensive." The fill level for remedial classes at Drexel is 12 students in a class, he said. There needs to be more communication between high schools and colleges, he said. This would make things easier.

Remedial classes in college are on the rise. Nearly 30 percent of LSUS' freshman are in remedial courses, according to statistics. Each year more and more students enter college without basic skills. Even at Harvard a student can glide through four years without having read a novel or studied a science.

This freedom flowered in the late 1960s when old rules went out of style with crewcuts. But freshmen are finding a new trend — academic standards are coming back in fashion. Beginning in the fall of 1979, Harvard students will have to take courses in five specific areas; and they will have to prove they can write, do math and read a foreign language.

THE MOVEMENT BEGAN at Harvard four years ago. There are obvious similarities

between what is going on at Harvard and other colleges, and the "back to basics" movement in elementary and high schools, according to an Associated Press article.

Both are attempts to make sure students master a basic core of skills, whether these are reading, writing and arithmetic in grade school, or science, language and literature in college. "It seems to me to be legitimate to ask of an educated person the ability to read and write our language properly," Dean Henry Rosovsky of Harvard said in an interview with the AP.

In the same interview, President Sheldon Hackney of Tulane said, "Students seem to be satisfied to see the pendulum swing back to academic authority. The pressures of the job market have impressed students with the advantages of both grades and rigor."

THE FACULTY AT AMHERST, which dropped all course requirements during the 1960s, is debating a return to mandatory programs. A special task force at Stanford has urged the faculty there to "prepare a statement that describes the skills and knowledge any Stanford graduate should have acquired."

Brown University, which abolished core courses in 1969, feels its flexible curriculum is best for its students. Experts predict that some schools will

avoid making requirements tougher because this could scare away potential students, since costs are soaring and the number of 18-year-olds is declining.

Colleges have to study themselves. They are under great pressures. They have to make certain that the product is really worth the great amount of time and money required from students, Dean Rosovsky said.

PAUL COPPERMAN, AUTHOR OF "The Literacy Hoax," in another interview with AP, compared the shift in education in the last 15 years to the Cultural Revolution in China. He said Chinese leaders are moving faster toward correcting their educational problems than are their American counterparts.

Copperman said only 25 percent of this year's high school graduates will have attained skills equal to the average 1963 graduate, and that 15 percent of the 1979 class will graduate as functional illiterates.

In light of the world's technology explosion, Copperman said this is "doubly tragic." He said state legislatures, in their moves toward establishing minimum competency levels, are doing more for education than any other agency. He also said state education boards have proven ineffective because they are little more than conduits for federal funds.



Sashi and his wife, Denise, are two members of the Ice Capades. (Photo: Cyndy Hill)

"Ice Capades": magic wonderland of beauty

by Cyndy Hill

Beauty on ice gives a feeling of being in a magic wonderland. It is an escape for a few hours to a world free of everyday problems. This year's "Ice Capades" provided a visit to this mysterious land and its talented inhabitants.

"It's Magic" was the theme of the ice spectacular, and it proved to be just that. Magic tricks that dazzled the audience ranged from making doves appear to making people disappear. This was an added attraction to the show, which usually just concentrates on skating.

AS USUAL, THE TALENTED STAR Sashi Kuchiki was back with an electrifying performance. Kuchiki is a former skating champion of Japan and a member of his country's Olympic team. He is known for the tremendous ability to execute difficult movements while skating with lighted torches.

Comedy is also an intricate

part of the show with such clowns as Freddie Trinkler, known as the bouncing ball of the ice, and the team of Bob Mac and Bob Barrickman. The audience often becomes involved with the skits, and the children especially love them.

The costumes of "Ice Capades" this year were new and unique. The costumes used during the "Chopin Fantasy" brought back thoughts of "Swan Lake" in which beautiful ballerinas gracefully glided across a frozen lake to a montage of preludes and waltzes.

LIGHTING IS AN INTRICATE PART of the "Ice Capades" production numbers. Spotlights of blues, pinks, yellows and purples add even more to the atmosphere of fantasy.

Overall once again, the "Ice Capades" was a family show that satisfied the viewers of all ages. After all, it's seldom one gets to visit a land not often seen. But then just remember, "It's Magic."

Greek Beat

by LaTonya Turner

ZETA TAU ALPHA

Eta Omega chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha will have a car wash Saturday at Eastgate's Branch of the Bank of Commerce from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are a minimum contribution of \$1 and may be purchased from any Zeta or at the car wash.

Zeta member Kenda Romero won first prize, a stereo, in the Dance Marathon, after dancing 24 hours. Johnette Comegys also danced.

The chapter will have an exchange with Phi Delta Theta tomorrow.

Tonight.

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2) M*A*S*H

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★ Soft drink may be substituted
ID's must be presented.

Campus Briefs

Biology Club

The Biology Club will meet April 18, at 5 p.m. in the Science Building, Room 228. Elections will be held for next year's officers. The club will also discuss the service and achievement awards.

Health Sciences Club

Dr. William Allums, associate professor of medicine at LSU Medical Center, was the guest speaker at a Health Sciences Club meeting recently.

Dr. Allums discussed the history and progress of medicine and current problems in health care.

BSU travels

Several members of the LSUS Baptist Student Union will be going to Morgan City during the spring vacation to work in a French Mission. Their work will consist of Bible clubs with children, conducting worship services and working with young people.

The BSU sponsored "Greek Day" Wednesday at the Assembly of God Building on the southwest corner of the campus. Fraternities, sororities and other fraternal organizations of LSUS were invited for lunch to help encourage more fellowship between the organizations of our campus.

Danny Walker, LSUS faculty member who is temporarily on leave to work with the EXCEL program, spoke on "Christian Reasons for Not Being a Christian."

Chairs donated

Two hand-made chairs, possibly more than a century old, were donated to the Caspiana House.

The ladder-back chairs still have the original cowhide seats. The construction and design of the chairs dates back to the period of the first settlers' movement into this area.

Arizona Chambers of Many, and Capitola Mower of Homer gave the chairs to Dr. John W. Hall, chairman of the Social Sciences Department.

Hanna speaks

Bill Hanna, Shreveport mayor, will speak in the Science Lecture Auditorium at 1:30 p.m., April 19, in conjunction with a presentation sponsored by the Student Activities Board.

The show, entitled "Heritage and Horizons," is a 20-minute presentation using three slide projectors and will be narrated by Larry Ryan and others. The show deals with the past, present and future of Shreveport.

The mayor will speak after the show on his intentions for Shreveport during his administration. Following his speech, Mayor Hanna will answer questions from the audience.

Social Justice Day

Some of the most prominent political, social, business and civic leaders in Shreveport are expected to gather at LSUS for the second annual Social Justice Day, Saturday.

The program will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Science Lecture Auditorium and various classrooms. It is an annual event designed to raise local awareness of the area's social justice problems.

Dr. William Hull, pastor of Shreveport's First Baptist Church, will give the keynote address, to be followed by nine discussion workshops on such socially pertinent subjects as the politics of poverty, housing, educational alternatives and the dilemma of semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

"We want to define, set the priority and develop the information on specific social problems in this area," said Nancy Morris, chairperson of the Social Justice Day Committee, organizers of the event.

Coffee and lunch will be served. Suggested donation for attending is \$3.50, though no donation is mandatory.

The program is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Shreveport Pastoral Council and funded by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport, with a grant from the local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

For more information call Morris at 424-3350. Registrations will be accepted the day of the event.

Pi Sigma Epsilon

Pi Sigma Epsilon, the marketing fraternity, held their initiation last Friday.

Initiates are Scott MacClure, Michael Howard, Reed Ramsey, Kenneth D. Jones, Kenneth A. Jones and Lee Muse.

The Pi Sigma National Convention will be held through Sunday in New Orleans with 81 chapters represented.

Among those attending from LSUS are Pam Jones, Ricky Elliot, Dr. Jim Reed associate professor of management and marketing, Sue Nash, Patty Austerfield, Scott MacClure, Don Martin and Robert Bracken.

Murphy honored

An informal luncheon to honor Walter Murphy, LSUS veterans representative, was sponsored by Delta Omicron Mu, the veterans fraternity, recently.

Murphy was presented a plaque for his "outstanding services to the veterans of LSUS and Delta Omicron Mu."

Murphy's office will be terminated Monday because of federal budgetary limitations.

Calendar

Friday, April 6

2 and 7:30 p.m. — "A Bridge Too Far" and "MASH" — Rated R.

Spring vacation begins 10 p.m.

Sunday, April 15

Softball league play at 5 p.m.

Monday, April 16

Classes resume at 8 a.m.

Softball league play at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

Softball league play at 5 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18

LSUS Chorale student recital, 12-2 p.m., Science Lecture Auditorium.

Thursday, April 19

Caspiana House open 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Friday, April 20

2 and 7:30 p.m. — "Silver Streak" — SLA. Rated PG.

SGA meets

In their weekly meeting, the Student Government Association voted to change their affiliation with the national organization, United States Student Association.

Resolution 79-13 passed the Committee of the Whole to join the American Student Federation. Yearly membership dues are \$20.

In discussing the resolution, SGA president, Pat Dowling, said "USSA has lost a great deal of their political clout, and in some circles they are not highly regarded. The American Student Federation has more political clout and is available to help arbitrate problems that might come up on local campuses." He also said some SGA members will probably go to the organizational meeting to be held in Dallas.

Excellence Program

Applications for the LSUS Academic Excellence Program for this summer will be accepted until May 1 from high school students in their junior year.

The applicants may enroll in selected freshmen classes at LSUS. The credit earned in the program may be used toward degree requirements when the students are admitted as freshmen.

"This program offers students, who want to further their education, a chance to experience the total university atmosphere, and to take courses which would not otherwise be available to them at this point in their schooling," said Dr. Gary Brashier, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Orientation will be June 5 and classes will begin June 11. The high school students will be charged the regular summer term fees at LSUS.

Applications and additional information about the program are available from high school principals and counselors or from C.B. McPherson, assistant to the vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, in the Office of Academic Affairs, telephone 797-7121, Ext. 373.

Overlee speaks

"I'm sure you are all familiar with the corny expression — there's a fungus among us. Well, it is absolutely true," Dr. Arnold Overlee, from the LSU Medical Center, said last Wednesday night while speaking to the LSUS Biology Club.

Overlee, a microbiologist, spoke about mycology, which is a branch of botany that deals with fungi. "There is no sharp boundary between medical mycology and general mycology," he said.

Dr. Overlee talked about Sporotrichosis arthritis, which is caused by a fungus, and often mistakenly diagnosed as rheumatoid arthritis. It is usually found in older male alcoholics, who work outdoors.

Dr. Overlee concluded his speech with a question and answer period. The Biology Club brings speakers to the campus every month. All those interested are urged to attend.

SWAN meeting

Southwestern Association of Naturalists' annual meeting will be held April 19-21 at Sherman, Texas. Several members of the LSUS Biology Department and the Biology Club will attend this meeting, which involves biologists from eight states.

While there, they will attend various lectures and seminars on a variety of subjects. Anyone interested in attending can obtain more information from Dr. Laurence Hardy, professor of biological sciences, or Ruby Blackwell, president of the Biology Club.

Hearing survey

Students who have a hearing impairment of any kind are asked to fill out a questionnaire for a survey being conducted by the State Department of Education.

The survey will effect the results of future state and federal legislation.

The questionnaire can be filled out in Bronson Hall, Room 313, 321 or 315.

It is very important that every student with a hearing problem be counted in the survey.

"Outlaw" Party

Delta Sigma Phi will hold an "Outlaw Party," April 21, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Fraternal Order of Police Club House on Cross Lake.

Free beer will be provided by the fraternity, and music will be by the Hilltop Country Express. Tickets for the party are \$2 and can be purchased from any Delta Sigma Phi member or at Danbi's in Eastgate Shopping Center.

"Outlaw" T-shirts can be purchased from any Delta Sigma Phi member for \$6, which will cover admission to the party.

Delta Sigma Phi will also hold a party Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Cypress Lake Dam.

Art exhibits

Traveling art exhibits are on display this month at the Meadows Museum and the R.W. Norton Art Gallery.

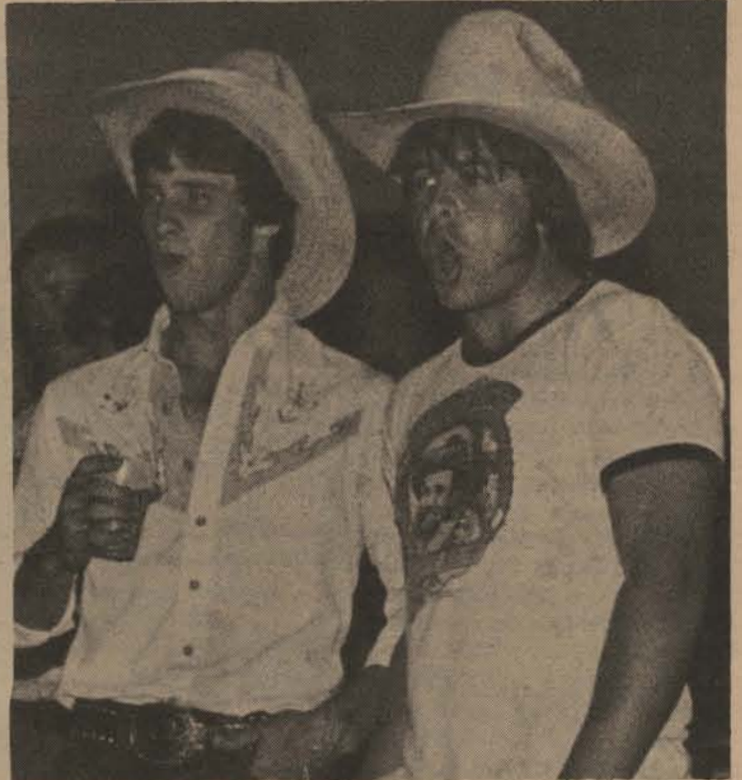
Anthropology, art and history students can examine the early development of the people and cultures of the Holy Land at the exhibit through May 10 at the Meadows Museum.

"The First 4000 Years: The Ratner Collection of Judean Antiquities," circulated by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, consists of approximately 200 objects in pottery, metal, glass and stone. The exhibit includes objects of periods from 3500 B.C. to about 500 A.D. Every phase of Judean life from ceramic ritual vessels to gold and silver jewelry is covered.

An exhibition of 93 oils, watercolors and pastels by American painters of the Impressionist period opened last Sunday and will remain through May 13 at the Norton Gallery.

Known as the Jette Collection of American Impressionist Paintings, the exhibit is touring 17 cities in the United States under the auspices of the International Exhibitions Foundation of Washington, D.C.

The Jette Collection consists of works by artists who belong to the second generation of American Impressionists.



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Photos of Beer Bash Boogie
and dance marathon
by Susie Booras



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Sports

by Kent Lowe

Intramurals

Bombers stay undefeated

Bill's Bombers remained undefeated as the intramural softball league prepares for its Easter Break.

With rain slowing action these past two weeks, the Bombers are 4-0, with the Med. Seniors and Delta Sigma Phi tied for second at 3-1. The Nephrons round out the first division with a 3-2 slate.

In last week's action, Bill's bombed KA 10-5, beat the Nephrons 13-8 and squeaked by a 12-11 win over Phi Delta Theta.

In co-rec action, 14-12 seemed to be a popular score as Half-Fast beat DOM and Tri-Delt beat Criminal Injustice by that score. The BSU split, beating Zeta 23-3 and losing to Criminal Injustice 10-9.

LEAGUE STANDINGS			
Bill Bombers	4-0	—	
Med. Seniors	3-1	1	
Delta Sig	3-1	1	
Nephrons	3-2	1½	
Tokers	2-2	2	
Med. Sophs	1-3	3	
Phi Delt	0-3	3½	
KA	0-4	4	

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS	
CO-REC LEAGUES	
BSU 23, Zeta 3.	
Half-Fast 14, DOM 12.	
Tri-Delt 14, Criminal Injustice 12.	
Criminal Injustice 10, BSU 9.	
WEEKDAY LEAGUES	
Delta Sig 12, Tokers 11.	
Bill's Bombers 10, KA 5.	
Phi Delt forfeit to Tokers.	
Bill's Bombers 13, Nephrons 8.	
Nephrons 20, Med. Seniors 3.	
Bill's Bombers 12, Phi Delt 11.	
Nephrons 18, Med. Sophs 17.	
Med. Soph 11, Tokers 8.	
Delta Sig 15, Med. Sophs 13.	
Delta Sig 20, KA 8.	
Med. Seniors 20, Phi Delt 0.	



Stan Shelton is out at first in an IM game between Bill's Bombers and KA. The Bombers remained undefeated with a 10-5 win. (Photo: Susie Booras)

Hacky Sack 'kicks' across country

It's called Hacky Sack. Some people say it might rival the Frisbee.

Hacky Sack is a unique exercise that concentrates on the development of eye-to-foot coordination and the enhancement of balance, quickness, agility, flexibility and the concentration it takes to play all sports.

The Hacky Sack is a football of hand-made leather, with complete internal stitching. The game, created by John Stalberger, is an art form and a competitive sport. The National Hacky Sack Association rules say that the game is played over an eight-foot net similar to volleyball. Unlike volleyball, the teams use only the feet and the knees.

According to a Hacky Sack booklet, the American rules of the sport state the football must not touch the body above the waist. Also, the game utilizes five basic kicks, which "dictates equal use of both feet, thus developing physical

system has also looked into the Hacky Sack program in the past month, and a decision should be forthcoming as to the adoption of Hacky Sack in Bossier schools.

Stalberger said of his game, "In 1973 I designed the game of Hacky Sack as an off-season training program and warm-up exercise for athletes. I took my concept from ancient kicking games played around the world, where their purpose was to keep an object in constant flight using all parts of the body, except the hands.

As Hacky Sack continues to grow, one can only dream of the sport's future. How about a professional Hacky Sack league?

Captains offer tickets for LSUS students

Dr. Frank Collins, LSUS chemistry professor and president of the Shreveport Captains' Booster Club, announced recently a ticket plan for LSUS students.

The Captains will sell student season tickets good for all 1979 home games for \$15. Those wanting more information should contact the Captains' office at SPAR Stadium or Dr. Collins, Science Building, Room 312, ext. 224. The home opener is scheduled for April 17.

Dr. Collins also announced that a "Meet the Captains" banquet will be held April 16 at the Broadmoor Knights of Columbus Hall. The catered barbecue affair is set to start at 7 p.m. For tickets, contact Dr. Collins.

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